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# United States Patent [19]

Fuhr

[11] 4,164,299

[45] Aug. 14, 1979

[54] TRAY FOR PAINT AND BRUSHES

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[22] Filed: Oct. 14, 1977

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B65D 5/28

[52] U.S. Cl. ..... 220/20; 15/257.06;

220/90; 220/94 A; 224/48 R

[58] Field of Search ..... 220/20, 90, 94 R, 94 A;  
206/1.7, 1.8, 1.9; 224/75 R, 48 R; 15/257.06

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Primary Examiner—George E. Lowrance

## [57] ABSTRACT

A hand held tray is disclosed having two open receptacles adjacent each other, one for paint the other for one or more brushes. An open space is provided between the receptacles to accommodate the fingers of the user as the tray is held and tabs are provided to be engaged by the thumb of the holding hand to steady the tray. The upper edge of the sidewalls of the first receptacle act as a stroking edge against which to draw the side of the brush to remove excess paint therefrom.

7 Claims, 4 Drawing Figures

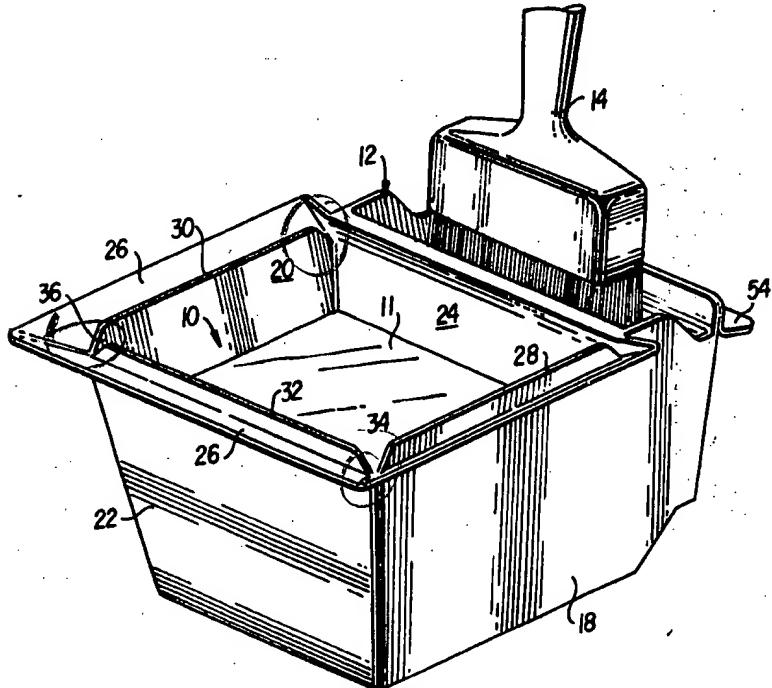


FIG. 1

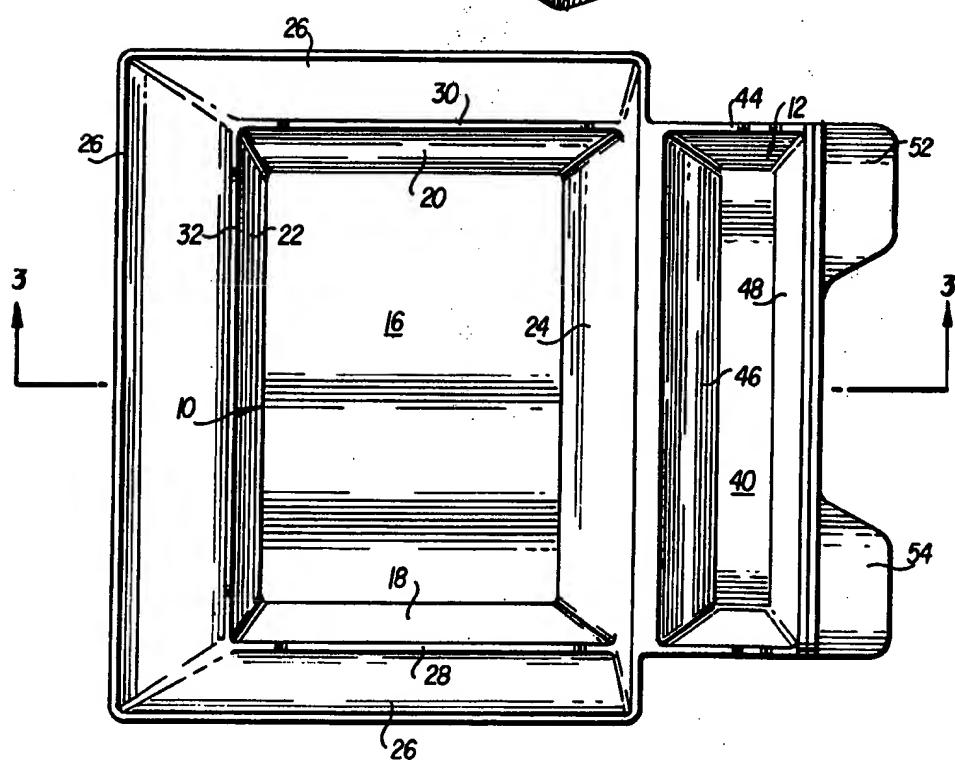
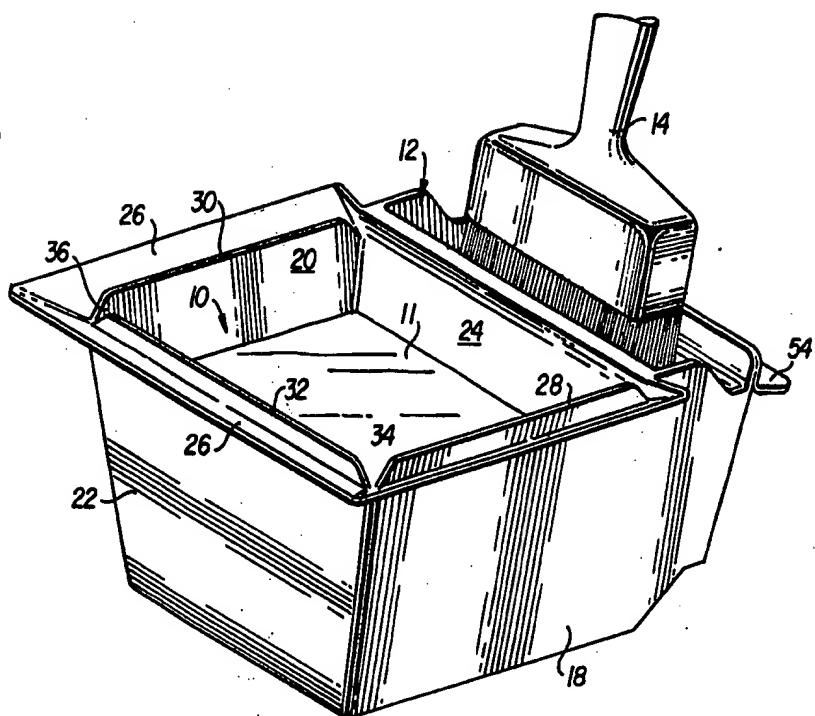


FIG. 2

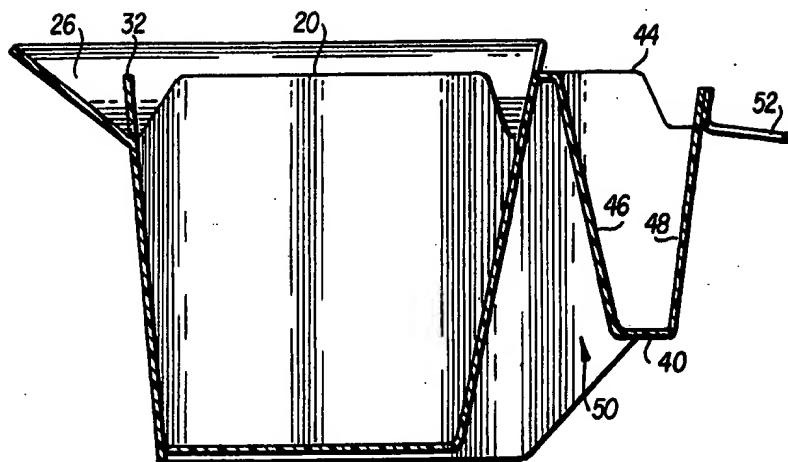


FIG. 3

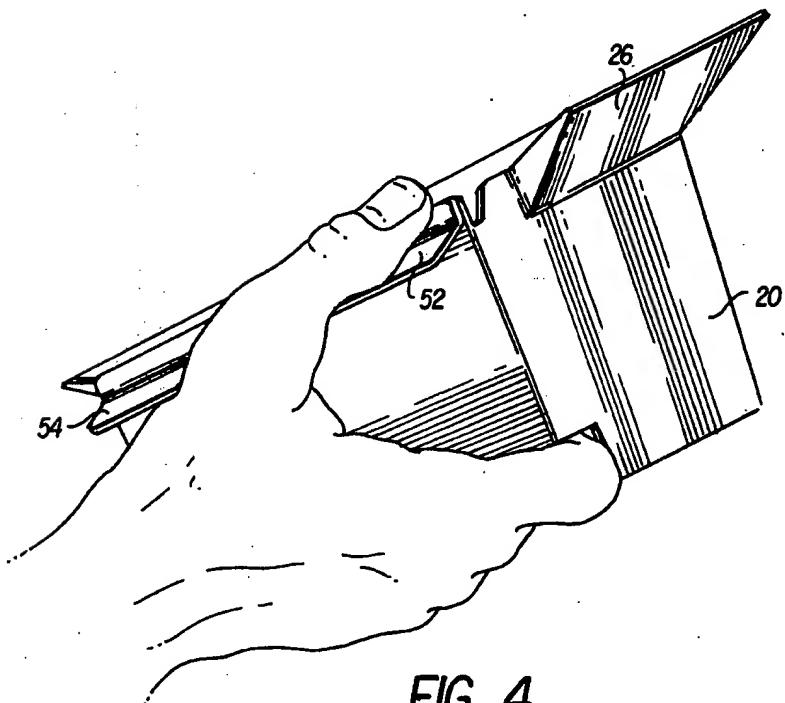


FIG. 4

## TRAY FOR PAINT AND BRUSHES

### BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

#### 1. FIELD OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to a painting aid and more particularly to a tray which can be held in either hand having open receptacles for both paint and brushes.

#### 2. PRIOR ART AND OBJECTS

Applicants are unaware of any device which can be held in either hand of a painter and which has open receptacles for both paint and brushes as well as a stroking edge for removing excess paint from the brush. U.S. Pat. No. 3,688,943 discloses a device, for example, which can be attached to the rim of a paint can and has a single receptacle for holding brushes. Such devices may be satisfactory for use where the area to be painted is large and the entire can must be available for use or where a sufficiently large surface is available for supporting the entire can. Such devices are, however, unsatisfactory where a small quantity of paint and a small brush are more desirable and the available work space is limited such as when painting window frames, trim, moulding and the like. U.S. Pat. No. 3,776,371 discloses a receptacle for supporting artists brushes and a conditioner for such brushes but the device is not suitable to be held in the hand nor is a quantity of paint placed therein for subsequent use.

It is, therefore, the primary object of the present invention to provide a novel hand held receptacle for a quantity of paint and one or more brushes.

It is another object of the present invention to provide such a paint and brush receptacle having a plurality of lips with straight edges to uniformly remove from the brush excess paint as the brush is stroked against the lip.

It is still another object of the present invention to provide a receptacle for paint and brushes which can be comfortably and steadily held in either hand of the user.

It is yet another object of the present invention to provide a receptacle for paint and brushes which is easy to fill with paint and empty and clean after use.

It is a further object of the present invention to provide a receptacle for paint and brushes which is of compact, lightweight sturdy construction and relatively inexpensive to manufacture.

The novel features which are believed to be characteristic of the invention, both as to its organization and method of operation, together with further objectives and advantages thereof will be better understood from the following description considered in connection with the accompanying drawings in which a presently preferred embodiment of the invention is illustrated by way of example. It is to be expressly understood, however, that the drawing is for the purpose of illustration and description only and is not intended as a definition of the limits of the invention.

### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a view in perspective of the tray for paint and brushes of the present invention;

FIG. 2 is a plan view of the tray of the present invention;

FIG. 3 is a cross-sectional view of the tray taken along the lines 3-3 of FIG. 2, and

FIG. 4 is a view in perspective of the tray being held between the thumb and fingers of the right hand.

### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

With reference now to FIGS. 1-4 of the accompanying drawings, the tray for paint and brushes is seen to comprise a first generally rectangular open receptacle designated 10 for storing a quantity of paint 11 and a second generally rectangular open receptacle designated 12 for storing one or more paint brushes 14.

10 The open receptacle 10 for paint includes a bottom wall 16 and a continuous upstanding side wall having sidewall portions 18, 20, a front wall portion 22 and a rear wall portion 24. The receptacle 10 also has an outwardly extending flange 26 which is continuous around side walls 18, 20 and front wall 22. As illustrated in the drawings, the wall portions 18, 20, 22 and 24 of the receptacle 10 are outwardly inclined at a slight angle with respect to the bottom wall 16 and the outwardly extending flange 26 is also inclined at a slight angle with respect to the walls 18, 20 and 22. The flange 26 is located a distance from the upper edge 28 of side wall portion 18, upper edge 30 of side wall portion 20 and upper edge 32 of front wall portion 22. The upper edges 28, 30 and 32 are not joined in the area above the flange 26 and in fact are separated at their ends by a gap 34 between upper edges 28 and 32 and by a gap 36 between upper edges 30 and 32. The upper edges 28 are straight-edge plates against which the side of a paint brush may be drawn or stroked as the brush is withdrawn from the open receptacle 10 after being dipped into the paint therein. The straight edge plate 28 provides assurance that the excess paint in the brush (i.e. that amount of paint which is desired to be removed before applying the brush to the surface to be painted) is removed uniformly from the brush. The gaps 34, 36 provide a return path to the receptacle 10 for the paint which is removed during stroking and deposited adjacent the outer surface 38 of the upper edges 28, 30, 32.

40 The open receptacle 12 for brushes is located adjacent the open receptacle 10 for paint and it includes a bottom wall 40, side wall portions 42, 44, rear wall portion 46 and a front wall portion 48. As illustrated in the drawings, the wall portions 42, 44, 46 and 48 of open receptacle 12 are also outwardly inclined at a slight angle with respect to the bottom wall 40. The rear wall 24 of receptacle 10 forms a compartment 50 with rear wall 46 of receptacle 12 for inserting the fingers of either hand to hold the tray as shown best in FIG. 4.

45 Thus tabs 52, 54 extend away from the front wall 48 in spaced apart relationship to each other. The tabs 52, 54 are positioned on the front wall 48 so that the tab 52 would be engaged by the holder's thumb to steady the tray when the tray is being held in the right hand and tab 54 is engaged when the tray is being held in the left hand. As the bottom of the user's thumb engages one tab, the top of the user's thumb will engage the bottom of the other tab which arrangement when combined with the gripping of the fingers and hand against the front and rear side wall portions of receptacle 12 virtually eliminates any possibility of the tray being dropped even if it is severely bumped. The flat outer surface of bottom wall 16 enables the tray to rest on other flat surfaces without danger of tipping and spilling.

In operation, paint or other liquid to be spread is poured into pen receptacle 10 to the desired level and brush(es) are placed in pen receptacle 12. The tray is held as shown and previously described and the brush is dipped into the paint and stroked against one of the

three upper edges 28, 30, 32 which is most convenient. The excess paint removed from the brush returns to the open receptacle 10. When returning to refill receptacle 10, the brush can be inserted in receptacle 12. When painting is completed, the remaining paint in receptacle 10 can be poured back into the can through gaps 34 or 36. Receptacles 10 and 12 can then be cleaned with turpentine or the like and the tray is ready for reuse.

The foregoing is considered as illustrative only of the principles of the invention. Further, since numerous modifications and changes will readily occur to those skilled in the art, it is not desired to limit the invention to the exact construction and description, and accordingly all suitable modifications and equivalents may be resorted to falling within the scope of the invention.

I claim:

1. A hand held tray for paint and brushes comprising:
  - (a) a first open receptacle having a bottom wall, a front wall and a rear wall each having an upper and lower edge, said lower edge being secured to said bottom wall to form said first open receptacle for holding a quantity of paint,
  - (b) a second open receptacle having a bottom wall, a front wall and a rear wall located adjacent said first open receptacle for holding at least one paint brush, said rear wall of said second receptacle being opposite to and spaced apart from said rear wall of said first open receptacle to form a recess for the fingers of the user's hand, and
  - (c) two outwardly extending, spaced apart tab means adjacent the upper edge of the front wall of said second open receptacle, one of said tab means serving to be engaged by the bottom end portion of the thumb and said other tab means serving to be engaged by the top portion of the thumb of said hands of said user to enable said tray to be held firmly by said user by engaging said tabs between said top and bottom portions of said thumb and said fingers of said hand engaging said recess.

2. A tray as set forth in claim 1 further comprising a continuous flange extending outwardly from said side wall of said first open receptacle, said flange being spaced a distance from said upper edge of said side wall.

3. A tray as set forth in claim 2 wherein said upper edge of said side wall of said first open receptacle provides a stroking edge against which to draw the side of said brush to remove excess paint therefrom, said upper edge being discontinuous to permit said excess paint to drain back into said first open receptacle.

4. A tray as set forth in claim 1 wherein two separate single pieces of material form a part of the side wall of both said first and second open receptacles.

5. A tray as set forth in claim 4 wherein said material is plastic.

6. A hand held tray for paint and brushes comprising:
 

- (a) a first open receptacle having a bottom wall and an upstanding side wall having an upper and lower edge, said lower edge being secured to said bottom wall to form said first open receptacle for holding a quantity of paint,

- (b) a second open receptacle having a bottom wall and an upstanding side wall located adjacent said first open receptacle for holding at least one paint brush, one of said side walls of said second receptacle being opposite to and spaced apart from one of said side walls of said first open receptacle to form a recess to enable the fingers of the user's hand to hold said tray, said upper edge providing a stroking edge against which to draw the side of said brush to remove excess paint therefrom, and

- (c) a continuous flange extending outwardly from said side wall of said first open receptacle, said flange being spaced from said upper edge of said side wall to receive said excess paint.

7. A tray as set forth in claim 6 wherein said upper edge is discontinuous to permit said excess paint to drain back into said first open receptacle.

\* \* \* \* \*

Oct. 27, 1959

E. F. WHITE

2,909,797

COMBINED PAINT BRUSH AND ROLLER TRAYS

Filed Sept. 17, 1957

Fig. 1.

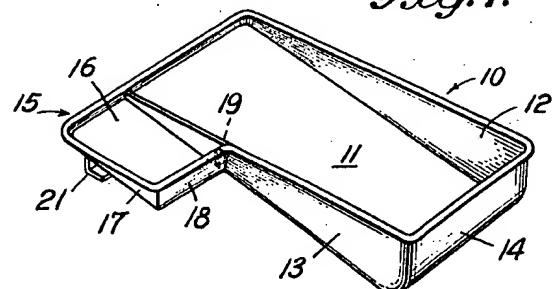


Fig. 2.

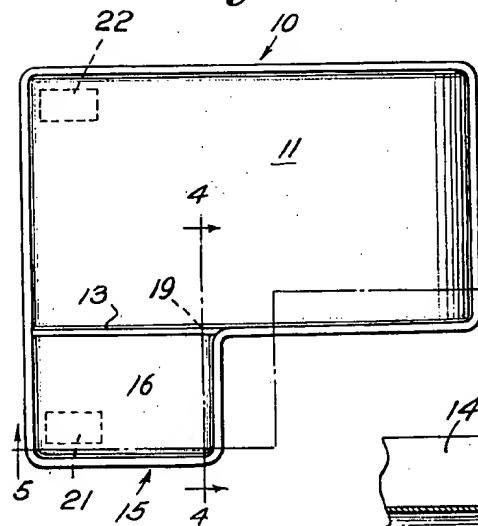


Fig. 3.

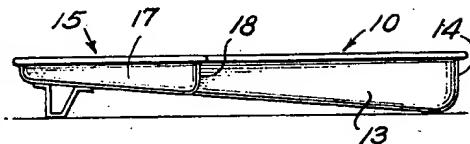


Fig. 4.

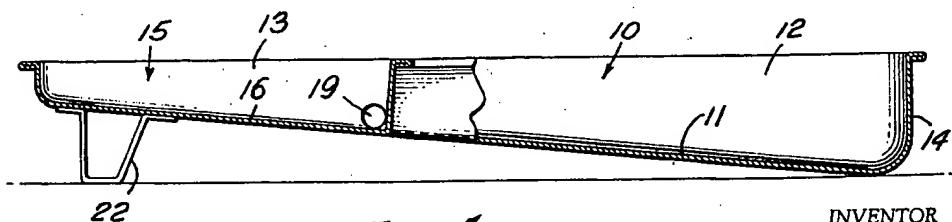
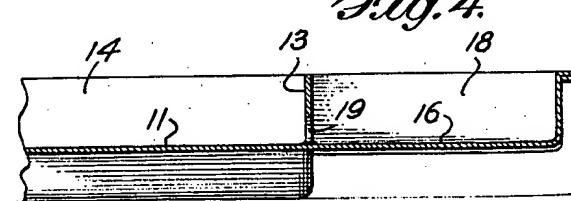


Fig. 5.

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# United States Patent Office

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## COMBINED PAINT BRUSH AND ROLLER TRAYS

Edgar F. White, Memphis, Tenn.

Application September 17, 1957, Serial No. 684,496

4 Claims. (Cl. 15—121.2)

The present invention relates to a painting device, and more particularly to a painting device in the nature of a tray for paint having associated therewith a holder for a paint brush.

There is now in widespread use a paint applicator in the form of a roller, having a handle thereon. Conventionally, the roller-type applicator is used with a tray so supported that its bottom is sloping. The slope of the bottom, together with side walls and a rear or end wall, forms a well or pocket to receive paint, and the roller is rolled or dipped into this well to gather up the paint, and is then applied to the surface to be painted, so that the paint is rolled on. Painting with a roller applicator is easy and convenient, and a large surface may be painted in a relatively short time. However, a disadvantage of the roller applicator lies in the fact that it cannot paint close to woodwork, such as a door or window molding, electric outlets, corners, and other spaces where there are fixtures or other objects protruding from the wall. To paint in such locations, it is the practice for painters to carry a separate brush, so that in those small areas which the roller applicator cannot reach, the brush is used.

Painters heretofore have carried the auxiliary brush in various ways, none of which has proven satisfactory. Some painters have attempted to lay the brush on the sloping bottom of the paint tray, but this has resulted either in the brush sliding downwardly into the paint and its handle getting covered with the paint, or else has interfered with the dipping of the roller into the paint. Other painters have attempted to simply hold the brush in one hand while using the roller applicator in the other, but this has not proven satisfactory because the brush either drips, comes into contact with a surface which it is not desired to paint, or slips from the painter's grasp. Therefore, it can be seen that although the brush extends the usefulness of the roller applicator, no satisfactory way has been found to keep the brush when it is not being used, and to have it handy when it is desired to use it.

It is therefore an object of the present invention to provide a painting device, which includes in coordinated fashion, a tray to hold the paint for the roller applicator together with a holder for the brush.

It is another object of the instant invention to provide a novel combination of paint brush and paint roller tray in which the bottom of the paint tray is inclined to provide a relatively deep reservoir at one end and in which the tray is shallow at the opposite end and in which the brush tray is located adjacent the shallow end to aid in balancing the device especially in opposition to the relatively heavy deep end of the tray and in which lateral spread of the combined brush tray and shallow end of the paint reservoir imparts stability to the entire device.

A further object of the invention is to provide a tray for a roller applicator together with a device that will hold the brush in such a manner as to facilitate the grasping thereof by the painter when he switches from the roller to brush.

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A still further object of the present invention is to provide a tray for a roller applicator together with a tray to support a brush and a provision whereby excess paint on the brush may drain into the well of the main tray for the roller applicator.

Other objects and the nature and advantages of the instant invention will be apparent from the following description taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, wherein:

10 Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a preferred embodiment of the invention;

Fig. 2 is a plan view of the embodiment shown in Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is an elevational view of the embodiment shown in Fig. 1;

Fig. 4 is a partial cross-sectional view taken on the line 4—4 of Fig. 2; and

Fig. 5 is a cross-sectional view taken on the line 5—5 of Fig. 2.

Referring to the drawings, wherein like reference characters designate like or corresponding parts throughout the several views, there is shown in Fig. 1 a paint tray 10 having a sloping bottom 11, side walls 12 and 13 and a rear or end wall 14. A brush-holding tray 15 is positioned on the tray 11 adjacent the forward end thereof, and has a side wall 17 and a rear or end wall 18. As best seen in Figs. 1 and 2, the forward part of side wall 13 is a common wall between trays 10 and 15, and this common wall has an aperture 19 therethrough, so as to provide paint in tray 15 with access to tray 10.

20 A pair of supports 21 and 22 serve to elevate the forward ends of trays 10 and 15, so that the bottoms 11 and 16 slope downwardly toward the rear or end walls 14 and 18, respectively, thus forming a pocket or well in each of the trays.

While it is preferred, as shown, to have the bottoms 11 and 16 of the trays 10 and 15 coplanar, this arrangement is not necessary. In order for the paint which drains from the brush held in tray 15 to flow into the tray 10, it is necessary that the well of tray 15 be above the well of tray 10, and that the aperture 19 provide communication between the wells thus placed. These relationships exist, of course, when the tray 10 is used in its normal fashion with the front end thereof elevated.

It will be understood that the entire assembly shown in Fig. 1 may be made substantially integrally, or alternatively, the two trays 10 and 15 may be separately made and attached together, as by soldering.

It will be obvious to those skilled in the art that various changes may be made without departing from the spirit of the invention and therefore the invention is not limited to what is shown in the drawings and described in the specification but only as indicated in the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. In a combination paint brush and paint roller tray, 55 walls forming a paint reservoir, said reservoir walls comprising a longitudinally inclined bottom and said reservoir having a shallow end and a deep end, a second set of walls forming a paint brush receptacle adjacent the shallow end of said reservoir, the transverse dimension of said combined paint brush receptacle and shallow end of said reservoir being relatively large as compared with the transverse dimension of said deep end of said reservoir, means for supporting said combined shallow end of said reservoir

60 and said paint brush receptacle adjacent the ends of said relatively large transverse dimension so as to impart substantial balance and stability to said combination, said paint reservoir forming one leg of an L, and said paint brush receptacle forming a second leg of said L, the bottom wall of said paint brush receptacle being maintained

65 at least as high as the bottom wall at the shallow end of

said reservoir, and communication passage means between said brush receptacle and said reservoir.

2. In a combination paint brush and paint roller tray, an inclined L-shaped bottom wall, a margin for said L-shaped tray comprising six generally upstanding walls, 5 a generally vertical partition separating one leg of said L from the second leg of said L, said partition beginning at the shallow end of said bottom wall and being parallel to the axis of one leg of said L and transverse to the axis of said second leg, a communicating passageway through 10 the partition adjacent the bottom thereof and adjacent the end of the partition as opposed to the beginning of the partition, means forming a stable and balanced support for said combination, including the lower edge of said L-shaped bottom wall and a pair of vertically disposed supporting elements positioned adjacent the two ends of 15 the higher edge of said L-shaped bottom wall

3. In combination, a first tray for receiving paint having a bottom, an end wall and side walls, means for supporting said tray with its bottom inclined and with the 20 lower end of said bottom adjacent said end wall, whereby to form a well for paint, a second relatively smaller tray, said second tray having an inclined bottom, an end wall and side wall means defining a well, means attaching said second tray to and laterally of said first tray with the 25 well thereof higher than the well of said first tray, and

means fluid connecting the well of said second tray with said first tray to permit liquid flow from the well of said second tray to said first tray.

4. In combination, a first tray having a bottom, a rear wall and side walls, means for supporting said tray with its bottom inclined and with the end of said bottom adjacent said rear wall lower than the opposite end thereof, a second tray having a side wall, a rear wall and a bottom inclined upwardly from the rear wall thereof, said second tray having a side wall common with a side wall of said first tray and having its rear wall forward of the rear wall of said first tray, and an aperture through said common side wall adjacent the rear wall and bottom of said second tray.

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